

of French troops had been collected at Frasnés, preparatory to an attack which was made about half an hour afterwards by infantry and cavalry, supported by a heavy cannonade. The French had commenced their attack at five o'clock in the morning by skirmishing with the troops of the Netherlands, under the Prince of Orange, and at first obtained some success. This desultory fight lasted until noon, without any more decided demonstrations on the part of the French. The Belgians were, however, losing ground, when at two o'clock Sir Thomas Picton opportunely reached the scene of action with the 5th English division, composed of Sir James Kempt's and Sir Dennis Pack's British brigades and the 4th Hanoverian brigade, under Colonel Best.

"Sir James Kempt's brigade (28th, 32d, 79th, and 95th regiments) moved to the left of the position with the 3d battalion of the Royals, part of the brigade of Sir Dennis Pack, who, with the remainder of his brigade (42d, 44th, and 92d regiments), formed on the great Namur road, and in the cornfields extending to the wood on the right. The 92d was formed in line in the ditch bordering the great road, and was of the greatest service in repelling an attack of the French cavalry, who daringly pursued the Brunswick hussars into the British line, after they had made an unsuccessful attack on the French cavalry."

Sir Thomas Picton, as he approached the field with his division, had heard the continued and increasing fire kept up by the skirmishers, which made him push forward to the support of the Belgians, and by this means he succeeded in reaching Quatre Bras before any other British force. Nearly at the same time, however, the first division of Brunswickers, led by their gallant Duke, arrived to share with Picton and his soldiers the honor of arresting the progress of the French.

The Prince of Orange was anxiously looking for the arrival of some of his Allies, when he was gladdened by the spectacle of his re-enforcement pouring forward with steady but quick steps to relieve his almost exhausted troops. Before half-past three in the afternoon 14,000 men were in the field. As the